

From: Brian Jones
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/14/02 12:40pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

<<Microsoft Letter 1-14-02.pdf>>

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January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

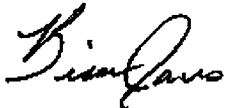
I am concerned about the status of the settlement recently agreed to by Microsoft and the Justice Department. Your decision to settle the matter is admirable and it is unfortunate that certain adversaries of Microsoft are trying to cause problems for it. After all, the settlement gives Microsoft's opponents everything they could have ever hoped for (and some...) without actually breaking up the company. Everyone wins in this scenario.

Microsoft grew to its great size and magnitude because of the seamless operating system it developed and subsequent demand for its products. Yes, it grew to be a huge corporation, but if you recall, its inception was in a garage. It did nothing illegal to achieve its premiere status, as its competitors accuse.

I am most impressed by Microsoft's agreement to share its code for the Windows operating system with competitors. This is profound and demonstrates Microsoft's desire to move forward - even though it really did not have to disclose these secrets. It will also no longer retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system - another measure that will increase competition.

The settlement is fair and is a much better alternative to breaking Microsoft up. The court should finalize it as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brian Jones
Vice President

Cc: Representative Mark Green



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